

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/058 W

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R 121530Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2779  
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 2317

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT YO  
SUBJ: TITO'S APPEARANCES DURING VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

REF: BELGRADE 2164

1. ALTHOUGH RUMORS AND SPECULATION PREDICTED THAT ILLNESS MIGHT PREVENT TITO FROM SHOWING UP AT THE 30TH ANIVERSARY CELBRATIONS OF THE END OF WWII, HE CONFOUNDED PESSIMISTS WITH A ROUND OF ACTIVITY WHICH BELIED HIS YEARS (83 ON MAY 25).

2. TITO'S FIRST APPEARANCE WAS INTERVIEW ON BELGRADE TV MAY 8 TO REMINISCE ABOUT THE WAR. ACTUALLY ON CAMERA ONLY A FEW MINUTES AT BEGINNING AND END OF PROGRAM, HE REFERRED TO HIS DISCOMFORT FROM SCIATICA, WHICH HAD HUNG ON A LONG TIME, AND EXPRESSED GOOD-NATURED ANNOYANCE OVER TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO ANSER QUESTIONS POSED TO HIM. THESE COMMENTS NOT PICKED UP IN PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF INTERVIEW). TITO SEEMED A BIT ABRUPT, SQUIRMED OFTEN IN HIS CHAIR, AND FUMBLED FOR WORDS WHICH INTERVIEWERVOLUNTEERED. BULK OF "INTERVIEW" LASTING MORE THAN HOUR CONSISTED OF SEVERAL PERSONS READING TITO'S FIRST

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PERSON REMINISCENCES IN

RELAY.

3. TITO APPEARED VIGOROUS AND ALERT ON REVIEWING STAND AT MAY 9 PARADE. FOR JUST OVER AN HOUR HE TOOK SALUTE OF PASSING TROOPS APPARENTLY PARTIALLY SITTING OR LEANING ON A CHAIR. (HE HAD JUST SAT DOWN AFTER ARRIVING ON STAND WHEN BAND STRUCK UP NATIONAL ANTHEM AND HE LITERALLY LEAPED TO ATTENTION).

4. AT EVENING RECEPTION, TITO SPENT LENGTHY PERIOD IN RECEIVING LINE SHAKING HAND WITH 1D FIGHTERS AND OTHER GUESTS, AND ALTHOUGH ONE AMBASSADOR SAID TITO'S DOCTORS HAD ORDERED HIM TO KEEP HIS APPEARANCE SHORT, HE REMAINED FULL TWO HOURS. FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOHN A. BLATNIK, WHO HEAD US DEL TO CELEBRATION, THOUGHT TITO LOOKED REMARKABLY GOOD. HE AND ANOTHER AMERICAN PRESENT (AT YUGOSLAV INVITATION), MELVIN BENSON, DID, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT TONE OF RECEPTION LACKED DEGREE OF GAIETY OF SAME OCCASION IN 1970.

5. ON MAY 10 TITO RECEIVED SOVIET AND AMERICAN DELS TO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEPARATELY. BLATNIK AND MAJ GEN CLAY BUCKINGHAM WERE TOLD MEETING WOULD BE 15 MINUTE COURTESY CALL BUT TITO PROLONGED EVENT TOTOTAL OF 50 MINUTES. BLATNIK, WHO HAS SEEN TITO MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS, NOTED THAT HIS MEMORY WAS STILL SHARP, THAT HE MOVED WELL BUT SHIFTED IN HIS CHAIR AS THOUGH UNCOMFORTABLE.

6. PRESIDENCY MEMBER VLADIMIR BAKARIC, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN AILING, APPEARED ON REVIEWING STAND DURING PARADE AND BLATNIK HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM MAY 13. ACCORDING TO ROTATION SCHEDULE, BAKARIC SUCCEEDS PETAR STAMBOLIC AS VICE PRESIDENT OF STATE PRESIDENCY THIS SUMMER.

7. TLATNIK IS NOW MAKING CALLS ON LEADING PERSONALITIES IN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTTIVITIES AND REACTIONS AT THE END OF THE WEEK.  
MILLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, YO, (TITO, JOSIP BROZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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